United Nations ST/IC/2004/6

Secretariat

20 January 2004

Information circular*

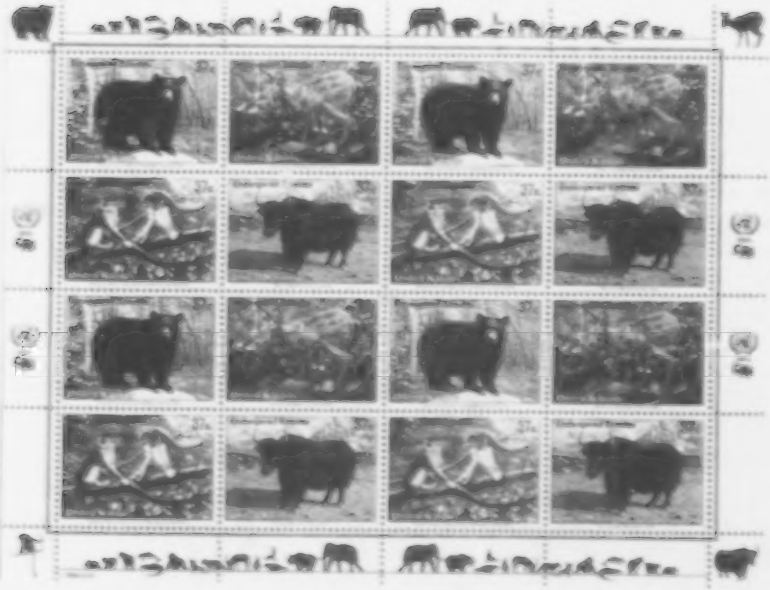
To: Members of delegations and staff

From: Officer-in-Charge, Office of Central Support Services

Subject: **First day of issue — 29 January 2004 "Endangered Species Series"**

Commemorative stamps

1. On Thursday, 29 January 2004, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of 12 stamps depicting endangered species of fauna. These will be the twelfth set of stamps in UNPA's multi-year series Endangered Series, which was launched on 3 March 1993 to highlight the need for the protection of species throughout the world which are in endanger of extinction.



Denomination:
57¢

Endangered Species:
American Black Bear
Musk Ox
Golden Snub-nosed Monkey
Wild Yak

Designer:
Stan Lee
(United States of America)

* Expiration date of the present information circular: 11 February 2004.

04-71645 (E) 230104

2. The issue will consist of three sheets of 16 stamps in denominations of 77¢, F.s. 1.00 and €0.55. Each sheet will illustrate four different endangered species.

(United States equivalents — F.s. 1.00: 77¢ and €0.55: 65¢, subject to exchange rate fluctuation.)

2004 Endangered Species annual collection

5. On 29 January, the United Nations Postal Administration will release the 2004 Endangered Species annual collection folder of single mint stamps.

6. The 2004 annual collection will be contained in a specially designed album. The album devotes separate pages to each of the 12 endangered species. Descriptive information is provided in English, French and German, and each stamp is beautifully highlighted by a colourful array of photographs relative to the species. It should be noted that the Endangered Species series **will not** be included in the annual collection albums to be issued later in 2004.

7. The stamps are not affixed inside the album, although spaces and mounts have been provided for this purpose.

Triple-cancelled Endangered Species annual collection folder

8. Since the 2004 Endangered Species annual collection folder will contain stamps in all three denominations, special arrangements have been made by UNPA to make available to its collectors the Endangered Species collections, in which the stamps will be affixed and cancelled with the date 29 January 2004, the first day of issue in New York, Geneva and Vienna, as appropriate.

9. The policy of offering triple cancellations for the Endangered Species annual collection will continue throughout the duration of this series.

Maximum cards

9. The twenty-fifth set of UNPA's maximum cards will also be issued on 29 January 2004. Three different cards will be produced to accommodate the three different se-tenant blocks of four stamps being issued. To conform to the maximum cards issued for the Endangered Species in prior years, each maximum card will reproduce photographs of the species appearing on each of the stamps in the se-tenant block. The appropriate se-tenant blocks of stamps will be affixed and cancelled first day of issue for each respective office. The maximum card cancelled United Nations New York will sell for $1.78. The cancelled United Nations Geneva card is priced at $3.78, while the cancelled United Nations Vienna card is priced at $2.91, subject to exchange rate fluctuations.

9. Starting with this set of maximum cards, UNPA will sell the plain cards (without stamps affixed) for 25¢.

Special limited silk cover

10. The release of the 2004 Endangered Species series stamps will coincide with the Hong Kong 2004 Stamp Expo. To mark this event, UNPA has produced a special limited edition silk cover. The 37¢ American Black Bear, the F.s. 1.00 Asiatic Black Bear and the €0.55 Sloth Bear will be affixed to these covers and cancelled appropriately. These covers will sell for $3.95 while supplies last.

Living Earth III

11. On the same day, UNPA, in cooperation with the postal administrations of Canada, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Ireland and Sweden, will make available the all-new, beautifully designed Living Earth, volume III album. The third volume continues the theme of nature by bringing worldwide attention to our natural heritage through postage stamps.

Definitive stamp

12. Also on 29 January 2004, UNPA will issue a new Austrian definitive stamp in the denomination of €0,55 to meet current postage rates. The stamp shows the Schloss Schönbrunn in Vienna and is credited to Austrian News.

General information

13. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first day covers on the UNPA official first day cachets **only**. Members of delegations and the staff can obtain these items on Thursday, 29 January, at the following locations:

(a) The UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

(b) A temporary sales counter, located on the east side of the Secretariat Lobby between the cafeteria and newsstand against the windows, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

14. First-day-of-issue cancellations can be obtained at a temporary U.S. Postal Service substation located outside the United Nations Bookshop in the concourse of the General Assembly Building from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

15. Information on United Nations stamps can be accessed on the Internet at http://www.un.org/Depts/UNPA.